

CHANDRA HB 6243

I am a Licensed Massage Therapist and a Certified yoga instructor in the state of CT. I also have taken multiple Thai Yoga massage trainings and have performed multiple Thai Yoga Massage sessions on clients and students since my Licensure date. As a professional who has actively utilizes all of these seemingly crossover modalities, I can safely say they should be included and listed under the massage therapy statutes.

Make no mistake, Thai Massage, Thai Yoga, and Thai Yoga Massage are all the same thing. That is, manual manipulation of a passive recipient by a skilled and adequately schooled practitioner who performs systematic and scientific manipulation and treatment of the soft tissues of the body, by use of pressure, friction, stroking, percussion, kneading, vibration, range of motion and nonspecific stretching.. It is performed one on one, just like any other style of massage therapy (western or eastern styles).

I have had a massage therapy practice for close to 8 years (and been a Thai Massage Practitioner for just as long) and have been teaching yoga since 2002 and feel strongly that ANYONE saying that they practice Thai Massage, Thai Yoga, and Thai Yoga Massage should be held accountable to the same standards of any manual therapist. Even if you call it Thai Yoga, it is still manual therapy FIRST.

Having been through the rigors of both an accredited massage therapy course at the CT Center for Massage Therapy (2005 graduate) and a certified yoga teacher training (2002 graduate) plus multiple continuing educational courses to uphold my license and certification, it is unsafe and unethical for those without a CT state massage therapy license to perform Thai Massage, Thai Yoga, or Thai Yoga Massage on the CT public.

Please DO NOT pass HB6243.

Thank you
Sincerely,
Lillee Chandra

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